



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Presentation of City Street Tree Planting on South Hutchins Street with the Lodi-Tokay Rotary Club

MEETING DATE: November 5, 2003

PREPARED BY: Public Works Director


RECOMMENDED ACTION: Presentation to City Council by Street Superintendent George Bradley of City Street Tree Planting on South Hutchins Street with the Lodi-Tokay Rotary Club.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The South Hutchins Street medians between Kettleman Lane and Harney Lane were installed in the 1970's. Landscaping for these medians was not provided until the City Council took action on September 5, 2001, approving plans for landscaping and tree planting of the median and east frontage island. At the same time, there was discussion regarding alternatives for improving the tree plantings in the sidewalk area. The sidewalk tree wells are planted with Crape Myrtle trees, many in poor condition. The tree wells along this roadway were not included due to a lack of funding.

The Lodi-Tokay Rotary Club has been working with staff to provide replacement trees for the vacant tree wells as a community service project. They have very active support from the Tokay High School Interact Club, which will also be participating in the actual planting. We will be removing 37 Crape Myrtle trees in poor condition, and planting 140 Sour Gum trees to replace them and the vacant tree wells. Ninety of 140 trees were purchased by the Lodi-Tokay Rotary Club.

The Sour Gum tree (*Nyssa sylvatica*) was selected for this location because it is a very long lived tree (greater than 100 years) with a strong branch structure that will grow to a maximum height of 50 feet and presents minimal root damage potential, making for less sidewalk damage. The remaining Crape Myrtles will be replaced over time. Shade from these taller trees will help reduce the heat island effect. The irrigation system was recently renovated and is totally operational.

South Hutchins Street is a major gateway to our city and, as such, it should and does reflect the beauty and pride our citizens have in our community. As a Tree City USA city, this effort supports our ongoing commitment to our urban forest.

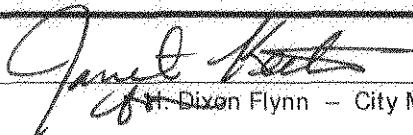

Richard C. Prima, Jr.
Public Works Director

Prepared by George M. Bradley, Street Superintendent

RCP/GMB/RF/dsg

cc: Curt Juran, Assistant Street Superintendent
Ray Fye, Tree Operations Supervisor

APPROVED: _____


John Dixon Flynn -- City Manager